

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 1, 2019

*To protect the Worship environment,
please, no drinks in the Sanctuary, and remember to turn off cell phones.*

THE GATHERING

***Silence is Kept to Prepare for Worship**

***The Call to Worship: Psalm 122**

***The Prayer of Invocation**

***The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

8:15 am: Kevin & Amy Bowling and Family

10:45 am: Nicole Kelly & Quinton Muther

***The Hymn of Advent: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

TEXT: Charles Wesley MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arranged by Robert Harkness

The Prayers of Confession

All: Our Father in Heaven, who gave your son for us, we give you thanks for your inexpressible gift. We confess that we have not loved you or one another as we ought. We have not forgiven one another as you, for Christ's sake, have forgiven us. We have too often lived in selfishness and worldly pride, trusting in our own wisdom rather than yours, hoarding the good gifts that you have given rather than using them to relieve the burdens of others. Forgive and blot out our sins, through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of your holy Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen. (Adapted from The Book of Common Worship, 1946)

PRIVATE (A time of silence is kept for confession of personal sins)

The Assurance of Forgiveness of Sins

Leader: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*The Readings on the First Sunday of Advent

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

The Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Here is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean, lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom, interposed His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten, throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me, by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting, as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless, drawing out my heart to Thee.

Let me all Thy love accepting, love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only and my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shall be my glory, nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me, Thou Thyself hast set me free.

Thou alone shall be my glory, nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me, Thou Thyself hast set me free.

Words: William Rees (1802-1883) Original tune by Robert Lowry (c. 1895) CCLI#245668

*Rising Sun

Praise Him all you sinners, sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God
We lift high His glory - shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

(chorus)

Our great redeemer, Glorious Savior
Your name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning, You shine forever
Your name is higher than the rising sun
Your name is higher than the rising sun

Praise His name forever, speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

(repeat chorus)

Hallelujah name above all, we lift Your name in praise
Hallelujah now and always, we lift Your name in praise (repeat)

(repeat chorus)

Your name is higher than the rising sun

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***The Profession of Faith: The Nicene Creed**

**ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scripture,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicaea {325}, and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon {451}. It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.)

The Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

Although giving is a significant part of worship, we do not collect the offering during our service. Two boxes are placed by the doors to receive your offering. Tithes and offerings for the General Fund are placed in the box without the "steeple." Offerings for the Building Fund are to be placed in the box with the "steeple," with check payable to Grace EPC Building Fund.

THE WELCOME

At this time, please fill out the friendship register found at the side aisle. As the register is passed, please note those with whom you are worshipping so that you can greet one another after the service. If this is your first Sunday at Grace, please accept our invitation to worship with us again soon. If you would like information about Grace EPC, please take one of our brochures from the table in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home, please let us know and we will be happy to visit with you.

**(CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR THEIR CLASSES AT THIS TIME:
K-4TH GRADE — LINE UP IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE SANCTUARY.
CONNECT CLASS [5TH & 6TH GRADE] HEAD DIRECTLY TO ROOM 7)**

(THOSE WHO ARRIVE AFTER THE SERVICE HAS BEGUN MAY BE SEATED AT THIS TIME)

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

The Prayer of Illumination

The Prophet Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

**All: The grass withers and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord remains forever.**

The Message from Scripture

Bill Vogler

The Lord's Supper

The Table of the Lord is open to each person who acknowledges himself/herself to be a sinner in the sight of God and without hope for salvation except in His sovereign mercy; who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners; who receives and depends upon Christ alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel; and who promises and resolves in humble reliance upon the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ.

If this is your profession of faith, you are welcome at the Lord's Table. As you come, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

(chorus)

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(repeat chorus)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

(repeat chorus)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace.

(repeat chorus 2x)

TEXT: Latin Hymn, Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710; translated by John M. Neale MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

The Glory of the Cross

What wisdom once devised the plan where all our sin and pride
Was placed upon the perfect Lamb Who suffered, bled, and died?
The wisdom of a Sovereign God Whose greatness will be shown
When those who crucified Your Son rejoice around Your throne

(chorus)

And, oh, the glory of the cross
That You would send Your Son for us
I gladly count my life as loss
That I might come to know
The glory of, the glory of the cross

What righteousness was there revealed that sets the guilty free
That justifies ungodly men and calls the filthy clean?
A righteousness that proved to all Your justice has been met
And holy wrath is satisfied through one atoning death

(repeat chorus)

What mercy now has been proclaimed for those who would believe
A love incomprehensible our minds could not conceive?
A mercy that forgives my sin then makes me like Your Son
And now I'm loved forevermore because of what You've done

(repeat chorus)

Words and music by Bob Kauflin As recorded on Songs for the Cross Centered Life © 2000 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI).CCLI#245668

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King
He the theme of heavens praises, robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment, of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption see the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker ©2013 The Summit Church

***The Prayer on the First Sunday of Advent**

***All: Almighty God,**
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armor of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

***The Benediction**

All: Christ has come. Christ is coming again. Hallelujah!

***The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

After Service Prayer

It is our sincere desire to pray effectively for the particular needs of those worshipping with us this morning. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared with the congregation during the prayers of the people, please call the church office or one of the elders prior to the service with your request. If you desire prayer on a personal matter, we invite you to meet with the elders in the front pews after the Benediction.

Available for prayer after 8:15 am worship: Scott Rask & Kim Grubbs
Available for prayer after 10:45 am worship: Todd Koch & Darby Ritter

*Congregation will stand.